

concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 147, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 147, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 194]

YEAS—386

Abercrombie	Crane	Hobson
Ackerman	Crenshaw	Hoefel
Aderholt	Crowley	Hoekstra
Akin	Cubin	Holt
Alexander	Culberson	Honda
Allen	Cummings	Hooley (OR)
Andrews	Cunningham	Hostettler
Baca	Davis (AL)	Houghton
Bachus	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Baird	Davis (FL)	Hulshof
Baker	Davis (IL)	Hunter
Baldwin	Davis (TN)	Inslee
Ballance	Davis, Jo Ann	Isakson
Ballenger	Davis, Tom	Israel
Barrett (SC)	DeFazio	Issa
Bartlett (MD)	DeGette	Istook
Barton (TX)	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Bass	DeMint	Jackson-Lee
Beauprez	Deutsch	(TX)
Becerra	Diaz-Balart, L.	Janklow
Bell	Diaz-Balart, M.	John
Bereuter	Doggett	Johnson (CT)
Berkley	Dooley (CA)	Johnson (IL)
Berman	Doolittle	Johnson, E. B.
Berry	Dreier	Johnson, Sam
Biggart	Duncan	Jones (NC)
Bilirakis	Dunn	Jones (OH)
Bishop (GA)	Edwards	Kaptur
Bishop (NY)	Ehlers	Keller
Bishop (UT)	Emanuel	Kelly
Blackburn	Emerson	Kennedy (MN)
Blumenauer	Engel	Kennedy (RI)
Blunt	Eshoo	Kildee
Boehlert	Etheridge	Kilpatrick
Boehner	Evans	Kind
Bonilla	Farr	King (IA)
Bonner	Ferguson	King (NY)
Bono	Filner	Kingston
Boozman	Flake	Kirk
Boucher	Foley	Klecza
Boyd	Forbes	Kline
Bradley (NH)	Ford	Knollenberg
Brady (PA)	Fossella	Kolbe
Brady (TX)	Frank (MA)	Kucinich
Brown (OH)	Franks (AZ)	LaHood
Brown (SC)	Frelinghuysen	Lampson
Brown, Corrine	Frost	Langevin
Brown-Waite,	Garrett (NJ)	Lantos
Ginny	Gerlach	Larsen (WA)
Burgess	Gibbons	Larson (CT)
Burns	Gilchrest	Latham
Burton (IN)	Gillmor	LaTourette
Buyer	Gingrey	Leach
Calvert	Gonzalez	Lee
Camp	Goode	Levin
Cannon	Goodlatte	Lewis (CA)
Cantor	Gordon	Lewis (GA)
Capito	Goss	Lewis (KY)
Capps	Granger	Linder
Capuano	Green (TX)	LoBiondo
Cardin	Green (WI)	Lofgren
Cardoza	Greenwood	Lowe
Carson (IN)	Grijalva	Lucas (KY)
Carson (OK)	Gutknecht	Lucas (OK)
Carter	Hall	Majette
Castle	Harman	Maloney
Chabot	Harris	Manzullo
Chocola	Hart	Markey
Clay	Hastings (FL)	Marshall
Clyburn	Hastings (WA)	Matheson
Coble	Hayes	Matsui
Cole	Hayworth	McCarthy (MO)
Collins	Hefley	McCollum
Combest	Hensarling	McCotter
Cooper	Herger	McCrery
Costello	Hill	McDermott
Cox	Hinchey	McGovern
Cramer	Hinojosa	McHugh

McInnis	Pomeroy	Skelton
McIntyre	Porter	Slaughter
McKeon	Portman	Smith (MI)
McNulty	Price (NC)	Smith (NJ)
Meehan	Pryce (OH)	Smith (TX)
Meek (FL)	Putnam	Smith (WA)
Meeks (NY)	Quinn	Snyder
Menendez	Radanovich	Solis
Mica	Rahall	Spratt
Michaud	Ramstad	Stearns
Millender-	Rangel	Stenholm
McDonald	Regula	Strickland
Miller (FL)	Rehberg	Sullivan
Miller (MI)	Renzi	Sweeney
Miller, George	Reyes	Tancredo
Moore	Reynolds	Tanner
Moran (KS)	Rodriguez	Tauscher
Moran (VA)	Rogers (AL)	Taylor (MS)
Murphy	Rogers (KY)	Terry
Murtha	Rogers (MI)	Thomas
Musgrave	Rohrabacher	Thompson (CA)
Myrick	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (MS)
Napolitano	Ross	Thornberry
Nethercutt	Rothman	Tiberi
Ney	Roybal-Allard	Tierney
Northup	Royce	Towns
Norwood	Ruppersberger	Turner (OH)
Nunes	Rush	Turner (TX)
Nussle	Ryan (OH)	Udall (NM)
Oberstar	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Obey	Ryun (KS)	Van Hollen
Olver	Sabo	Visclosky
Ortiz	Sanchez, Linda	Vitter
Osborne	T.	Walden (OR)
Ose	Sanchez, Loretta	Wamp
Otter	Sanders	Watson
Owens	Sandlin	Watt
Oxley	Saxton	Waxman
Pallone	Schakowsky	Weiner
Pascarell	Schiff	Weldon (FL)
Pastor	Schrock	Weldon (PA)
Paul	Scott (GA)	Weller
Payne	Scott (VA)	Wexler
Pearce	Sensenbrenner	Whitfield
Pelosi	Serrano	Wicker
Pence	Shaw	Wilson (NM)
Peterson (MN)	Shays	Wilson (SC)
Petri	Sherman	Wolf
Pickering	Sherwood	Woolsey
Pitts	Shimkus	Wu
Platts	Simmons	Wynn
Pombo	Simpson	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—48

Boswell	Gephardt	Peterson (PA)
Burr	Graves	Sessions
Case	Gutierrez	Shadegg
Conyers	Holden	Shuster
Deal (GA)	Hyde	Souder
Delahunt	Jefferson	Stark
DeLay	Jenkins	Stupak
Dicks	Kanjorski	Tauzin
Dingell	Lipinski	Taylor (NC)
Doyle	Lynch	Tiahrt
English	McCarthy (NY)	Toomey
Everett	Miller (NC)	Udall (CO)
Fattah	Miller, Gary	Velazquez
Feeney	Mollohan	Walsh
Fletcher	Nadler	Waters
Gallegly	Neal (MA)	Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) (during the vote). Members are advised there are less than 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1913

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1298. An act to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes.

## REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 USC 6431 NOTE), amended by section 681(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 USC 2651 NOTE), the order of the House of January 8, 2003, and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a two-year term ending May 14, 2005:

Ms. Felice Gaer of Paramus, New Jersey, to succeed herself.

□ 1915

## TEXAS LEGISLATORS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week was a week. Fifty-five Texans decided that it was their job to represent their constituents, that the process of government in Austin was there to undermine the representation of their constituents.

I want to again applaud the 55 who had the courage to realize that the cutting of children's health care and Medicaid was not the kind of legislative process they wanted to engage in and to stand up against an intercession, intermediary redistricting so that the people of Texas could be represented.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important now that we look back, that we make sure that the Federal resources did not inappropriately interfere with the constitutional privilege of elected State legislators in Texas. I believe it was imperative that my colleagues sent a letter to Secretary Ridge to get all of the documentation, including the tapes, that will show us whether or not the Homeland Security Department was utilized against these brave souls. It is important for the government to raise the shades and light the sunshine to tell the truth on what happened last week.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under the Speaker's

announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### AUTISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for some time now I have been coming to the floor on a regular basis talking about children who are autistic. A few short years ago, one in 10,000 children in this country was autistic. Now it is more like one in 200. This is a 50-fold increase. We have an absolute epidemic.

The major culprit in most people's minds is the mercury, mercury that has been in vaccines as a preservative. Since the 1930s and 1940s, they have been putting mercury in vaccines as part of a preservative called thimerosal. As children started getting more and more vaccinations, the amount of mercury in their systems grew and grew and grew. And now children get between 25 and 30 shots before they go to kindergarten. The cumulative effect of all that mercury in their brains is causing severe neurological problems for these children, their families, and the entire country.

We did a report, a report that took 4 years in studying the problems with these vaccinations, and most people in the country are not even aware of the problem. A lot of people do not even know what autism is. But the fact of the matter is an awfully large number of these children who have been damaged and who are autistic, we believe and our report believes and shows, that they were damaged by the mercury that was injected into their bodies along with the vaccinations they were getting.

Mr. Speaker, I have been coming to the floor for some time, and every time I come to the floor I talk about letters I have been receiving from families of children and pictures of children who are autistic and their stories about how their child became autistic. We have found from all these letters that the children get their vaccinations, four, five, six, and seven shots in 1 day, in many cases; and within a very short time after that these children who are normal, who make eye-to-eye contact, who laugh and walk and do all the things that normal children do, they change. They no longer communicate, they no longer look you in the eye, they bang their heads against the wall, they have chronic diarrhea and constipation alternatively. And the problems go on and on.

I have a letter here from a fellow who says it has cost him his house. He had to sell his house, \$45,000. He had to borrow money. He is in debt up to here, and he has nowhere to turn. The Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, which was supposed to help these people, it

was created to help these people whose children were damaged by vaccines, shows no hope.

Many of these people did not get in within the 3-year time limit because they did not know what caused their child to be autistic. They did not even know their child was autistic because the doctors misdiagnosed them. So they missed the 3-year statute of limitations, and they have nowhere to go.

So we are trying to get the Senate and the House together to work out a program where children can get into the program, can have their case reviewed. And if it is proven that they were damaged by the mercury in the vaccines, or the MMR vaccine, then they can get restitution from this fund. But we are having a terrible time because the pharmaceutical companies are fighting us because they are afraid of the liability they might incur.

So we come down here every day, and we beat on this issue and beat on this issue and will continue to do that until we get some positive results, because these parents, and we have thousands of these letters, thousands, and it is growing every day, these parents have no place to turn. These children are going to grow up living to be 65, 70 years old and the taxpayers of this country are going to be taking care of them. That is the only place they can turn because the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund is not doing what it is supposed to do to help these children.

I wish everyone would look at these pictures, my colleagues back in their offices and those on the floor. These are normal children who were damaged by vaccines. Their parents have no place to turn, and the pharmaceutical companies have turned their backs on them. That is criminal and something has to be changed.

#### HONORING HAITIAN-AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Haitian-Americans. Yesterday, May 18, marked the 200th year of Haitian history, that country's Flag Day celebration. They celebrated in Haiti, and not only in Haiti but also in Miami, Florida, in the place we know as Little Haiti.

This was a celebration of a very proud people, a people that have invested so much into our democracy that we have here in the United States, and not only now but in the beginning. America was founded on the basic democratic beliefs of cultures and values, of people from every country in the world.

There are over 1.2 million Haitians living in the United States today, with 700,000 of them in Florida. I honor those Americans, those Haitian-Americans who continue to believe in the guiding principles of their country. Flag Day represents unity and

strength. That unity has been seen throughout American history since the 1700s during the American Revolution at Savannah. Haitian-Americans fought side by side, prevailing against Britain and creating an independence of 13 colonies. Haitian-Americans are woven within the very history and fabric of this country.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not alone on this floor this evening in introducing this Sense of Congress to establish a Haitian-American Heritage Month; and so I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I too join with my colleague in supporting this resolution, but also speaking out really to help educate our colleagues in the country about the 200th adversary of Haitian Flag Day. It is a significant event, the bicentennial of the second oldest republic in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti, that joined the United States in seeking its freedom from European colonialists in the early 1800s.

The Haitian people have fought for 200 years, have been part of a movement towards democracy not just fighting side by side with Americans but side by side with other Western Hemisphere countries in seeking their own democracy. We have had a community also in south Florida as well as throughout the country that has grown and prospered and, in fact, many of their friends and relatives today still seek that opportunity that all of us have sought in the United States of America.

Today, we have Haitian-Americans that are detained in Krome, in prison really, in the United States, in Miami-Dade County, some of whom, by court order, have been ordered to be released, and yet Attorney General Ashcroft has prevented their release by categorizing Haiti as a terrorist State at this point in time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would now yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman for bringing this very important issue to the floor. I too would like to add my support.

Haitian-Americans, Haiti in particular, had a great deal to do with the development of this country during our fight for independence in the Revolutionary War. There was a battalion in the Savannah battles where Haiti sent troops to fight alongside the colonies against the British.

Also, I think that because of Haiti's battle against Napoleon, one of the first countries to defeat the Napoleon Army, France was very strapped for cash, and it therefore had to sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States for a very, very low sum of money because they needed money